
Title: Magicians and the sacred

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Many magicians in ancient cultures were priests. The relationship between magic and the sacred is, however, a subject of great debate. Cynics and atheists lump magic and religion in the same category, and dismiss the whole thing as superstition. The pious believe religion is greater than magic, something that transcends it—particularly if they come from a religious tradition that looks down on mere magicians. As far as the sorcerous—well, some see magic as far greater than mere piety, while more religious magical traditions might see the two operating hand in hand. For most sorcerers, their magic is their religion. It is as much a religious vocation as anything else. Indeed, such "sacred magicians" are often drawn to magical paths more often than secular "thrillseekers", if only because their faiths led them to great devotions. The "pious magicians" believe that the miracles performed by their brothers and

sisters in faith are
confirmations of the
religion's spiritual
truth.

More secular
magicians can feel the
Otherworld just out
of reach, denied by
the mundane cunism
that surrounds them.

To remove the
blindfold across their
vision, these seekers
often embrace any
so-called "truth"
beckoning from a book
store shelf. Many of
these soon outgrow
their fascinations, or
consume themselves
in catastrophes; the
dedicated and talent
ones find roads every
bit as legitimate as
their pious
predecessors, and
often acquire a faith
of their own in the
process.

...ooOoOoo..